

Naeemeh Naeemaei

Under the Earth/Over the Moon: Personal Narrative in Environmental Art

Public Lecture

Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021
Location: Arts & Sciences Auditorium
Time: 5:30-6:30pm
Free: Open to the public

Born in Tehran, Iran, Naeemeh Naeemaei received her BFA in sculpture from Tehran Art University in 2006. After graduation, she participated in numerous individual and group shows in Tehran, both in sculpture and painting. In 2009, she began a new series of paintings about endangered species, which led to her first solo exhibition, *Dreams Before Extinction*, at the Henna Gallery in Tehran in 2011. In 2013, the series was reproduced in a bilingual book of the same title, published by Perceval Press. Prior to moving to Oregon in 2017, Naeemaei was active in Iran's environmental movement and involved with several organizations that seek to raise awareness about endangered species and other environmental issues. In 2016, Naeemaei was the category winner in the Wildlife Artist of the Year Competition, sponsored by the David Shepherd Foundation in London. In 2018, she served on the Twelve Glenn Gould Award Jury, awarded every second year to a living individual in recognition of his/her contributions to music and communication. In 2019, she had the first show of her original paintings at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in Eugene, Oregon featuring her two series *Dreams before Extinction* and *Under the Earth/Over the Moon*. Her works have been featured on *Leonardo* by MIT Press, *Feminist Formations* by John Hopkins University, *Orion Magazine*, and some other journals. Currently, she is preparing for her upcoming show at the Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland, Oregon.



Under the Earth, Over the Moon is not a lament for the loss of an animal in a far-off village, but rather for the loss of every living creature whose species has been alive for thousands or millions years and now is suffering from our behavior toward nature. I mourn for such a global attitude that threatens the future of humans as well as the whole life chain on Earth. This universal ignorance has now led to climate change, which is going to shake us and wake us very soon! Mina and the Leopard is just one episode of a very long story, and it hasn't ended yet. We, the people, are writing the rest of it.

- Naeemeh Naeemaei -

Naeemeh Naeemaei's work can be seen online: <https://www.naeemaei.com/>

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